(d) the number of projects taken up with this amount in each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Asian Development Bank had approved US $ 1.21 billion assistance for India in Calendar Year (CY) 2005 and as per ADB's India Country Strategy and Program Update, ADB plans to increase its lending to India in CY 2006 to US $ 2.25 billion.

(c) and (d) The following projects were approved in CY 2005

		US$ million
1.	Chhattisgarh Irrigation Project	46.10
2.	Tsunami Emergency Assistance Sector Project (Kerala and Tamil Nadu)	200.00*
3.	Rural Roads Sector II Project (Assam, West Bengal and Orissa)	750.00
4.	Kerala Sustainable Urban Development Project	221.20
	TOTAL :	1217.30

* US$ 100 million as loan and US $ 100 million as grant

ADB-funded Projects for CY 2006 are at various stages of processing.

Criticism of new income tax form (2F)

770. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of wide-spread criticism about introduction of new Income Tax form (2F)

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps to alley public apprehensions about it;

(c) what are the reasons for Government flip-flop on the scope/ desirability of introducing this from *viz.* the form being removed or reviewed for modification;

(d) whether Government have considered the impact of this flip-flop on the psyche of the Income tax assessees; and

(e) if so, whether Government in interest of healthy tax regime, categorically specify the current status about the introduction of form 2F?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) In some quarters, a view has been expressed that the new Form No. 2F is not so Saral . In this regard, the Government has clarified at different fora that the new Form No. 2F is essentially an expanded version of the existing Naya Saral so as to provide more space to fill out the details. Further, the cash flow statement in Form No. 2F is intended to protect the salaried taxpayers from any intrusive investigation.

(c) There is no flip-flop on the scope/desirability of introducing Form No. 2F.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to Part (c).

(e) A salaried taxpayer has the option of filing Form No. 2F or the Naya Saral or Form No. 2D or Form No. 3. However, the Naya Saral will be discontinued after 31st July, 2006, but the salaried taxpayer will have to option to file his return thereafter in Form No. 2F or Form No. 2D or Form No. 3. Even where a person chooses to file Form No. 2F or form No. 3, he has the option of not filling out the cash flow statement.

Anomaly applications pertaining to Pay Commission

771. SHRI PRAVEEN RAHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an announcement has been made by Prime Minister regarding appointment of Central Pay Commission; if so, the status thereof;

(b) whether the Ministry have attended to various anomaly applications filed by the employees against the last Pay Commission; and

(c) how many such applications are pending concerning the Departments of Income-Tax, Central Excise and Customs?